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NIGHTBREED 18
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AUG 1992
EPIC COMICS™

CLIVE BARKER'S NIGHTBREED

AN AMERICAN
**WERE-
WOLF**
IN THE HEARTLAND

BUT IS HE A
NIGHTBREED
AMOK--
OR SOMETHING
WORSE?!

OBI

Martin Houser V.



CLIVE BARKER'S NIGHT BREED

HUNTERS &
TROPHIES
PART ONE OF THREE

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THE WORD LUNACY COMES FROM THE
LATIN, LUNA, MEANING MOON...

...THE KEEPER
OF THE NIGHT...

...THE SCAPEGOAT
FOR SIN...

ARRRRHHHHH

ITS LIGHT IS SAID TO BEND
AN OTHERWISE SANE MAN'S
WILL INTO THAT OF PSYCHO-
PATRIC MALEFICENCE.

ARRROOOO

SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT
CROWN OUT THE ICY
SHRIEK OF THE FRIGID
JANUARY WIND.

SCREAMS THAT
ARE DEVOID OF
DEFINITION...

HHRRR HHRRR
HHRROOO



A black and white comic book illustration depicting a violent scene. In the foreground, a large, muscular werewolf with long, dark fur and a snarling mouth full of sharp teeth is lunging towards a man. The man, who has a dark, hairy chest and is wearing a loincloth, is being thrown or falling backwards. In the upper left background, another figure is seen falling or jumping through the air. The setting is a dark, rocky, and desolate landscape with jagged rocks and a few bare, skeletal trees. The overall tone is dark and horror-themed.

THEY COULD
BE SCREAMS
OF AGONY.

THE CALL OF THE WILD



A MERE QUARTER-MILE AWAY IN
STUBBINSVILLE, ALL IS NOT
QUITE WHAT IT SEEMS.

LIKE ALL SMALL PICTURE
POSTCARD TOWNS,
SKELETONS ARE EAGERLY
AWAITING THE OPENING
OF THE CLOSET.



COLD,
DAMN TOSSES
FEEL LIKE
THEY'LL JUST
GO AND SNAP
RIGHT OFF.

EH? HEY,
YOU... IN THE
ALLEY!



COME ON
OUTTA THERE,
I AIN'T GONNA
HURTCHA...



OH MY
LORD
ALMIGHTY!



SHIT!
SOUNDS LIKE
NOTHER ONE'S
GETTIN' IT,
KIRKER!

CARLO...
YOU UP FOR
THIS?



THE NIGHTBREED... CHILDREN
OF THE NIGHT...

...INHUMANELY CAST
ASIDE BY HUMANITY...

...SEEKING ONLY TO RE-
CLAIM A SANCTUARY
WHERE THEY MIGHT LIVE
WITHOUT PERSECUTION.

A QUEST NOT ONLY
HAMPERED BY THE
NATURAL WORLD,
BUT BY REBELS IN
THEIR OWN RANKS...

ROTTEN BASTARDS
DRAGGIN' AN OLD
LADY ALONG LIKE...

MY DEAR
NICKHEVEN, YOU
ONLY HAVE THE
HEAD OF AN OLD
LADY... BUT THE
BODY--

--WAS SURE
YOU PROMISED
DRINKING AND MOST
ESPECIALLY WHORING,
NOT THIS BLUSHING
ABOUT THE WILDS,
PELOQUIN!

HATE TO
DISAPPOINT YA,
MARGARET. BEND
OVER AND I'LL
GIVE YA A GOOD
WHORING!

THAT
WASN'T QUITE
WHAT
MEANT.

I OFFERED. NOW QUIT
YOUR GRIPING-- WE STILL
GOT US A RENEGADE TO
TRACK. CAMEL DON'T WANT
ANY MORE BLASPHEMERS
POPPING OUT OF THE
WOODWORK.

DO YOU REALLY THINK
IT WAS WISE TO ALLOW
LITTLE MAE TO PLAY
SCOUT?

NBODY
LETS MAE DO
ANYTHING.

BUT IF ANY OF
US ARE GOING TO
FIND THIS ROGUE,
IT'LL BE HER.

"SHE WAS HIS MATE
BEFORE SHE WAS
MINE. KNOWS HIS
SCENT AND TRAIL
BETTER'N ANY
OF US."

RHHOOARRR!

HUH UH-UH-UH
UH-UH-UH
UH-UH-UH

YOU ARE FAR
TOO SLOW!
SHE WILL BE
MINE!

AARRROO!

AIN'T
HAPPENIN', YA
FRICKFACED
ASSHOLE!

AND WHAT
GIVES YOU SUCH
UNBREDLED
ARROGANCE TO
BELIEVE SUCH
A ROAST?















YAAHHH!
MY CHALK!

WHOA! HEY...
NICE KNIFE.

BET I CAN
NAME AN ANIMAL
YOU HAVEN'T
KILLED. MAN!
HAW HAW HAW!

THOK



YOU LOSE
TOOK THIS FILTHY
SPEECHCHUCKER
IN AFRICA... SHRUNK
IT MYSELF.

YOU GOT
ANY OF THEM
'CHUCKERS
AROUND HERE
YOU'D LIKE
ME TO--



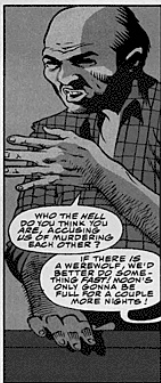
YOU INHUMAN BASTARD!
WHAT DO YOU THINK
WE ARE?

BIGOTED
MURDERERS?

SMACK



LESLIE,
ISN'T IT? I'M
NOT SUGGEST-
ING THAT, BUT
I'LL BET ONE
OF YOU IS A
WEREWOLF
WITH A HEARTY
APPETITE FOR
FLESH!



WHO THE HELL
DO YOU THINK YOU
ARE, ACCUSING
US OF MURDERING
EACH OTHER?

IF THERE IS
A WEREWOLF, WE'D
BETTER DO SOME-
THING FAST! NOON'S
ONLY GONNA BE
FULL FOR A COUPLE
MORE NIGHTS!

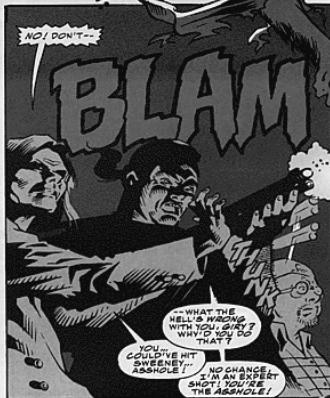


IF ONE OF US IS A WEREWOLF,
AND YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN
SLAY HIM OR HER OUT... WE'D
BE WILLING TO PAY ANY FEE--

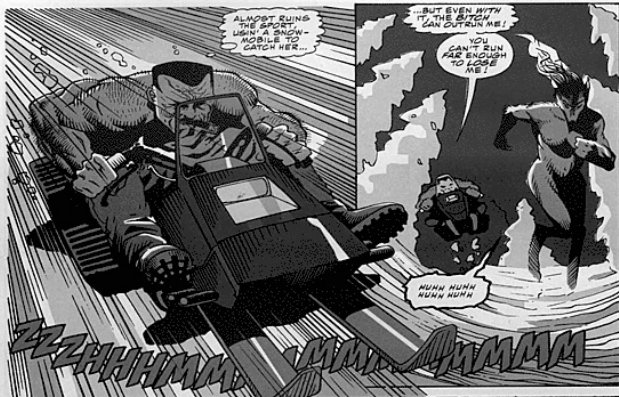
I DON'T NEED
ANY DAMN FEE. I'M
IN IT FOR THE SPORT
...AND THE TROPHY.











ALMOST RUIN-
THE SPORT.
USIN' A SNOW-
MOBILE TO
CATCH HER...

...BUT EVEN WITH
IT, THE BITCH
CAN OUTFRIN ME!

YOU
CAN'T RUN
FAR ENOUGH
TO LOSE
ME!

MUHH MUHH
MUHH MUHH



MUHH MUHH
MUHH MUHH



TRACKIN'
BLOOD IN THE
SNOW IS TOO
EASY!



BUT... THERE ISN'T
ANYTHING MORE
DANGEROUS THAN A
WOUNDED, CORNERED
ANIMAL IN ITS LAIR.

MAGNIFICENT
SPORT!







YOU THINK
I NEEDED
THAT PIS-
STICKER?



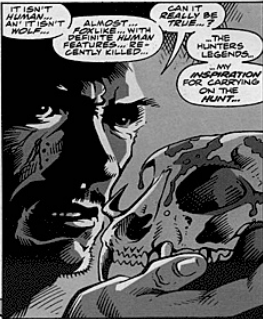


AGONY... HUH? FEEL YOUR
INSIDES WRITHING AROUND
COLD ROCK, FLUIDS AND
EXCREMENT SQUIRTIN'
ALL ABOUT...

IT'S WHAT
YOU DESERVE...
YOUR KIND...



...GODDAMN
FILTHY BEASTS!
WHAT DO WE
HAVE HERE?



IT ISN'T
HUMAN...
AN' IT ISN'T
WOLF...

ALMOST...
FOOL LIKE... WITH
DEFINITE HUMAN
FEATURES... RE-
CENTLY KILLED...

CAN IT
REALLY BE
TRUE...?

...THE
HUNTERS
LEGENDS...
...MY
INSPIRATION
FOR CARRYING
ON THE
HUNT...



WHERE DID
YOU SLAUGHTER
THIS BITCH? ARE
THERE MORE?

HUHH HUHH
NEVER UHH
HUHH TELL!

IT'S BREED...
ISN'T IT?!
NIGHTBREED!
THE STORIES
MUST BE TRUE!



AND WHERE
THERE'S ONE
THERE'S A
TRIBE!

MY GOD...
I'M TOO
LATE...

THERE AIN'T
A DAMN BIT OF
TIME TO MOURN
NOW...

ALMOST FEEL I OWE
YA ONE... GIVING ME PROOF
OF THE BREED AND ALL...

MY HUNT'S GOT
A WHOLE NEW
MEANIN'! BUT RIGHT
NOW... IT'S TIME TO
CLAIM MY
TROPHY!

YEEARRGHH!

HRRMMMM!
I'M OVERCOME
WITH AN INSATIABLE
LUST! ;SLURP;

NOTHING
QUITE AS ;GROPE;
SATISFYIN' AS THE
TASTE OF LIFE
DRAININ' AWAY!
;SLUURRP;

MMAHH...
THE MEAT'S
TASTE CHANGES
AS ;CHURP; YOU
REVERT!

AAHTEE--*



ELSEWHERE IN THE NIGHT, A WITCHES' BALEFIRE BURNS, ITS PROTECTIVE ILLUMINATION DANCING THROUGH THE ENVELOPING DARKNESS...



PELORUN,
COME AND SIT
WITH US.

INSIGHTS, DREAMS
AND INTUITIONS
COME INTO
ME--

I CAN STILL
SMELL HER,
POLK...

YAHNN! WHAT IN
BARDNET'S NAME
DID YOU THROW INTO
THE FIRE,
NICKNEVEN?

HENBANE AND
PEYOTE SOAKED
IN CAT SEVEN--
BREATHE
DEEPLY--

Y'ENFF! AIN'T SEEN THE
LAST OF OLD LADY DEATH...
FLAMES SAY ANOTHER
BREED'S BEEN TAKEN
FROM US!

IF YOU'RE
AFRAID, OLD WOMAN,
YOU'RE WELCOME TO
LEAVE. I'M STAYING
UNTIL I TAKE
VENGEANCE--

NOT SHIT AND
SHINOLA--GET A
SANDER AT THAT!

COME OUT WHERE WE
CAN SEE YOU, OR I'M
COMIN' IN AFTER
YOU!

WE'LL BE RIGHT
BEHIND YOU--MY
GOD, I'VE NOT
SEEN--

PIPE DOWN,
NARCISSE--WE
CAME TO FIND
MCDUGAL--





I AINT McDUGAL
BUT YOU'D BETTER
LEAVE THESE
WOODS. NIGHTBREED,
OR DEATH WILL BE
THE LEAST OF YOUR
TROUBLES!

NEXT: A GOOD OLD
FASHIONED WOLF
HUNT -- WITH THE
BREED ON THE TRAIL!
BE HERE IN 30!

BREEDING ground

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

BREEDING GROUND, c/o EPIC COMICS,
387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016

To the Breed:

I'm new here. I saw the movies Hellraiser (and Hellraiser II), Nightbreed, and more recently, Rawhead Rex. My favorite? Rex. My least favorite? Nightbreed. Not that I don't like the idea, it's just that I found the motion picture poorly executed. Rex, on the other hand, was a strong movie, in both story and execution, despite the lower budget. Quite a few disagree with me, and that is fine. My tastes are not exactly met easily. Still, I found the NIGHTBREED comic crossovers with HELLRAISER (aka: JIHAD) quite appealing. So, after finding out about the impending resurrection of Rawhead Rex in the HELLRAISER title, I planned to try out a few issues of NIGHTBREED to flow a bit easier into the storyline. What I found was interesting, but still not as stimulating as the actions of the Cenobites. I'll let you know how I enjoyed the whole "Return of the King" epic after it has ended, but so far it is very fine. The writing is well-paced and the paintings are beautiful. I didn't know Mark Texeira was as versatile as this! What else does he intend to do?

Thanks for listening, and when does Rex get his return to the silver screen?

Sir Jon Johnson
64 Indian Hill Avenue
Portland, CT 06480

Sorry to be the bearer of bad tidings, Sir Jon, but there are no immediate plans for a sequel. The only Barker-related film coming soon is Hellraiser III, which is slated for release around August. Mark Texeira has penciled and/or inked the PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL (issues 16 and 25-30) and GHOST RIDER (most issues from 17-24), in addition to other projects such as an issue of GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. But if you really want to see some more of Mark's painted work, watch for an upcoming issue of HELLRAISER, and while you're at it, check out issue #5 as well. And now that the "Return of the King" epic is over, let us know how you liked it. By the way, Sir Jon, congratulations on your knighthood.

Dear Breeders and Clive Barker,

It may be a great wonder for you, but Clive Barker has his fans even in the (former) U.S.S.R. as well as in the United States, and I am one of them. A year and a half ago, I saw Hellraiser and became a fan forever... for a very long time, I think. The Nightbreed film has only confirmed the correctness of my opinion. By accident, I acquainted myself with your NIGHTBREED comic, issue number 12. This was interesting for me not as a Clive Barker story (the story of this issue is far from Barker's original creation, you must admit) but rather as an entity in itself. I can't judge from this sole issue, but I hope the other stories (I understand from the letter column that there are a lot of other mini-series) are even better, and written with imagination worthy of Clive Barker himself.

I have waited for the Clive Barker book Cabal for nearly a year (none of Barker's

books have been translated in Russian), as well as for Weaveworld and the Great and Secret Show, and I don't know what else. I am waiting now and will probably be doing so in the near future. The situation with movies is much better. More people watch movies than read books, and we have a huge video industry... perfectly legal, mind you. For example, the American hit Terminator II was out on Kiev as early as last November, I believe. Videocassettes of Hellraiser III will be here by the time you receive my letter, maybe a little later.

I hope very much that Clive does actually get my commentary. I think he never expected to have fans here, and I'll be very, very grateful if you, Clive, will find some time to answer me. I hope you will.

Your number one Ukrainian fan,

Oleg Gez
254053, Ukraine, Kiev-53
UL. Gofolevskaya 49, KV. 1

Great to hear from our friends in the Ukraine, Oleg. Since you liked NIGHTBREED #12, we wish you luck in finding more issues of NIGHTBREED where you live. You'll be happy to know that your letter has been forwarded to Clive, and perhaps if he has time he will respond to your letter.

Dear Epic,

I'm a 17-year-old Barker fan who loves your comic books. I have followed every issue since the beginning, and I can tell you that I won't quit reading them as long as I live. In issue number 11 you mentioned making NIGHTBREED monthly. I love that idea, but bi-weekly would be even better, or why not every week!!!

Keep up the brilliant work! I hope you'll excuse my English.

Jan-Ola Olofsson
Turevagsvagen 12B
S-44833 FLODA
SWEDEN

It's always good to hear from such a dedicated reader, Jan-Ola! again, especially from friends abroad. As you can see, at this point and time, NIGHTBREED as a monthly book has come to be, but a weekly? What are you tryin' to do give us all stress aneurysms? Bi-weekly would be unbearable enough. But we do appreciate your enthusiasm.

Dear Breeders,

Bravo! Monumental! Your decision to include Rawhead Rex in the NIGHTBREED mythos is fantastic!

When I first read Clive's short story, I became infatuated with Rawhead. Then I saw the film and got the job of doing the model kit based on the story. The good news is that the model is a dead ringer for R.R. but the bad news is that the movie version stunk! It was too human, right down to wearing (what once was) a regal, frilly costume decorated with dood-dad shoulder pads and all. Rawhead was

originally my idea of a primal beast... a massively mutated "bigfoot." Early people certainly would have considered this creature a god, and perhaps even kept him in a "calm" frame of mind with offerings of food and hymns.

Then came the awful movie... When I first saw Nightbreed, I said, "There... the Berserkers... that's Rawhead's tribe!" This, only to later learn the Berserkers were only (from JIHAD) homonculi!

Well, let me tell you, I was a bit worried about the direction NIGHTBREED was going, straying farther and farther from Clive's original concept of the Breed being the good guy scapegoats. Now, however, I am even more excited than when the original "Breed story" was put on film!

Rawhead has been properly shown for the first time ever. I want this version if a model is ever actually produced. He's utterly flawless down to his last tooth... I can just see these teeth emerging. I stand in awe of how you guys took a character of Clive's which has been ruined and had him emerge as a true tribute to Clive's writing! I just hope that once Rawhead is revived, your story doesn't just kill him off again. He's too worthy a "god" to Barker freaks for such treatment!

I hope this limited series also opens the door to cross-reference NIGHTBREED with other Barker characters. There are six Books of Blood to choose from, so it shouldn't be too hard to do. It enriches the world of Clive Barker fanatics to actually see how all things are intertwined as described in the Great and Secret Show.

But JIHAD has a drawback. It causes one to choose a side. How can we do this after so much soul searching and theorizing as to how Nightbreed and Cenobites can coexist? Please, in the future try to keep the evil, negative "bad guys" relegated to Clive's own personal theory on the subject, to wit. This theme could be an endless source of degenerates easily surpassing the worst of your villains as well, to say nothing of setting groups of society's scapegoats on each other.

Till Shuna Sassi sleeps on a water bed... .

Steve Godrich
Box 457
S. Colton, NY 13687

Well, Steve, there are no immediate plans to do anything with the Books of Blood, but there will be plenty of new, yes new, Clive Barker creations developed specifically for Epic Comics. In issue #17 of HELLRAISER we will premiere the Harrowers, marking a dramatic new direction in the Hellraiser mythos. The Harrowers will eventually spin off into its own ongoing series. And that's just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Many more projects will be born of the Clive Barker/Epic collaboration. Well, Steve, perhaps there will be some more Barker character crossovers, who knows? Finally, I'm sorry to remind you that, the King (not Elvis, Rex) was, of course killed a few issues later in NIGHTBREED #16. But maybe, just maybe, ...

"Leave these woods, Nightbreed,
or death will be the least of your
troubles!"

